'AND THEY WENT UP...'

There Was No Paved Highway For That First Christmas Trip

There was no macadam highway leading from Nazareth to Bethlehem when Mary and Joseph undertook their memorable journey nearly 2,000 years ago.

As far as routes were concerned, there were three. The western route led along the sea-coast and through the plain of Sharon. This route was unpopular with pious folk like Mary and Joseph who shunned the heathen cities, rowdy travelers, etc., as much as possible.

The shortest route, via the fruitful plains of Esdraelon into the mountains of Samaria and through Shechem and Bethel, was not very popular either. The road was tolerable, but steep; however, the Jews had little use for the Samaritans, and vice versa.

The Jordan route, which descended into the Jordon valley and followed the river's east bank around Jericho, was favored by the majority of Galilean travelers who for one reason or another (the Passover, etc.) went down to Jerusalem at regular intervals and knew their way around as well as suburbanites know their way around modern metropolitan areas.

If the Jordan route was a little roundabout, it was fairly level—and steeped in Jewish history, from the shallow of Mount Tabor where Saul in desperation sought his witch of Endor, to the tomb a little before Bethlehem where the first Joseph buried his beloved Rachel.

It is fairly certain that Mary and Joseph did not choose the western route when they planned their very special journey. Whether they chose to go by way of Shechem and Bethel, or around the walled city of Jericho may never be determined definitely.

But, the distance — nearly 100 miles—was, in any case, unrelenting and conquered only by persistent plodding. And when Mary was too tired to go another step, Joseph took the packs upon his

own shoulders so that she might ride the little donkey which trudged faithfully at his side.

Verily indeed, did Mary appreciate the shelter of the stable that night—no one could have been more grateful or more happy than Mary. And she brought forth her first-born son, and laid him in a manger.

Nativity Theme Dominates Cards

Modern Christmas cards feature literally hundreds of interpretations of the popular Nativity theme. Many of these are reproductions from the old masters, while many others have been created especially for the Christmas card industry.

The Nativity theme, which naturally lends itself to an almost endless variety of interpretations and a wealth of detail, long has been a favorite subject of Christian artists. Many of the details, based upon certain Bible texts, have fostered various legends—such as those concerning the Magi—which grew until the Wise Men were identified and given kingdoms.

The Annunciation is among the earliest subjects represented in Christian art, antedating the Madonna and Child theme by several centuries, and it is interesting to note that the fathers of the Church determined how the Madonna should be portrayed: her dress and mantle are usually blue and red.

Letters to 'Santa Claus' Come From World Over

Postoffice officials in Santa Claus Ind., are accustomed to overloaded sacks of mail during the pre-Christmas rush. Senders want their cards and gifts stamped with the famous Santa Claus postmark, plus thousands of wistful letters "Santa Claus, Santa Claus, Ind."

And then there is the annual crop of "Santa Claus" letters written by youngsters in far-away places who haven't heard about Santa's permanent address in Indiana, U.S.A. At least a dozen versions of the time honored note-in-the-bottle story find their way into metropolitan newspapers every year.

The notes, sealed in small bottles and securely tied to Christmas trees, are discovered by Christmas tree dealers, housewives; and even enlisted men at naval centers and military barracks: they come from places like Renous, a village in New Brunswick, Canada, boasting a total population of 85 inhabitants.

The notes range from the wistful to the desperate, requesting such things as a mamma doll, a sled, a sweater, or a pair of overshoes.

Law on Reporting Accidents

Richmond, Va., Dec. 20.- Virginia motorists are cautioned that they must report all accidents where total damage amounts to an amount $50 or more.

This was recently emphasized by George T. Riggin, director of the bureau of safety responsibility of the State Division of Motor Vehicles, who said considerable confusion exists over the interpretation of Section 46.398 of the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act.

"Many motorists believe that they only have to report an accident when the damage amounts to $50 or more on their own automobile. This interpretation is incorrect," says Riggin, and he quoted the act as follows:

"The driver of a vehicle in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person or total property damage to an apparent extent of $50, or more, shall, within five days after the accident, make a written report of it to the division."

Using a simulated accident case as an example, Riggin explained: "Say, two cars are involved in an accident and the damage to one is $40 and the other $5, making a total of $54 to both cars. Both drivers must report the accident to the Division of Motor Vehicles."

On the other hand, should total damage to both cars amount to less than $50, then the two drivers are not legally required to make the report.

The required report blanks can be obtained at any police station or sheriff's office and at most insurance agencies, Riggin said.

Information gathered from these reports is transferred to a large map kept by the State Police for the purpose of pin-pointing all accidents in Virginia, he said.

"By this method they can keep track of all accidents and should a number be noted at any one point, steps can then be taken to correct any hazards existing there," Riggin added.

The law also applies to non-collision accidents, such as sliding off the road or colliding with a fence post or utility pole. "Should a driver lose control of his car, skid off the road and crash into a fence, causing apparent damage of $50 or more to the fence and his own car, then he must report the accident."

G. Lee R. E. L. is returned to Washington and Lee.

Corn prices expected to be higher by summer.

Churches stress prayers for peace on Christmas day.

Truman asks Congress to revive war powers to shift agencies and to adjust defense contracts.

Play safe—drive carefully.

A. G. Gaines
Jeweler
Appomattox, Virginia

J. H. Lucado
Appomattox, Va.

Joy be yours this Christmas
1950

L. H. Wilkerson
Appomattox, Va.

HOLIDAY HAPPINESS FILL YOUR HOMES.
1950

Marsh's Garage
L. C. Marsh, Proprietor
Appomattox, Va.

Christmas is Time to Extend You
SEASON'S GREETINGS
And Thank You for your trade!

We have been in our New Store Building One Year This Month, and YOU have made 1950 a happy year For Us! We thank you and invite your patronage.

R. E. WILBUN
Appomattox, Virginia

Hixburg

Hixburg, Dec. 20.- Mrs. Bessie Halstead will spend Christmas in Florida with her daughter, Mrs. Harris Newton.

Mr. Edward Wooldridge, who attends Lynchburg College, will be with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wooldridge during Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Crote Carson and Miss Margaret, of Richmond, will spend the Christmas holidays in the home of Mr. Ernest Carson, his father.

Mr. Harwood Hix, of Greensboro, will arrive the last of the week for a visit with his father, Wilson Hix.

Mrs. W. M. Erwin, Sam and Carolyn of Mount Ulla, N. C., and Miss Evelyn Hix, of Richmond are expected on December 22, to spend Christmas in the home of W. D. Hix, Jr.

Tom Erwin has been notified to report on February 6 for service in the armed forces. During World War II he fought under Gen. Patton.

Capt. W. M. Erwin, Jr. has returned to Houston after completing special course at Lowry Air Force base, in Denver, Colorado.

Mrs. H. M. Marshall, of Pamplin visited Thursday with Miss Maggie Hix.

Mrs. Edwin Leatherburg, of Richmond visited in the home of her father, E. P. Sears, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Sears spent Saturday with his mother in Stuart Circle Hospital, in Richmond.

The true peace and joy of the season be with you...
1950

Almond Grocery Co.
Appomattox, Va.

Rob Martin and Capt. Covington have their plans and materials ready to build Grade A dairy barns as soon as the weather permits.

Farmers in this community have been rushing tobacco to market and the quality and prices have been satisfactory.

Co-op Program Denied By Va. Commission

Richmond, Va., Dec. 20.- The State Corporation Commission has denied an application of the Old Dominion Electric Cooperative for authority to borrow $16,000,000 from the Federal government to build its own generating and transmission facilities, a decision which it estimated will save rural electric consumers of Virginia $20,000,000 to $25,000,000.

The decision was unanimous. The opinion was written by Commissioner Ralph T. Catterall and concurred in by the other two members, Commissioners H. Lester Hooker and W. Marshall King. It terminated a proceeding that was instituted by the Cooperative a year ago.

"In passing on this application for authority to borrow sixteen million dollars," the Commission said, "our specific duty under the law is to look out for the welfare of the 55,000 customers of the eleven co-ops. The interest of those consumers in getting the best possible service at the lowest possible cost constitutes the public interest here involved. The proposed borrowing is not reasonably necessary for the purpose of promoting that interest. On the contrary, it would result in greater cost to the extent of more than twenty million dollars in 35 years, without providing better service."

The Old Dominion, representing 11 member rural electric cooperatives, proposed to build a steam generating plant at Warminster in Nelson County and build or acquire about 1,000 miles of high tension transmission lines with necessary sub-stations. The Virginia Electric and Power Company, which now sells current to the co-ops at one cent per kilowatt hour, offered last April to supply power to them at three-quarters of a cent per kilowatt hour.

The Old Dominion Co-op has indicated it will appear the ruling to the State Supreme Court.

DRAFTS CALLS TO BE INCREASED

Substancial increases in Virginia's draft calls for January and February are expected following boosts in national induction demands for both months.

The government has raised its January call from 40,000 to 80,000 men and the February call from 50,000 to 80,000.

POND CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM RESTRICTED BY SHORTAGES

The Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries announced today that because of high prices and a scarcity of materials, particularly cement, lime, and reinforcing material, the five year construction program which called for the building of a pond a year in areas of the state deficient in good fishing water, has been temporarily suspended.

One pond, Lake Gordon in Mecklenburg County, has already been constructed under the program and has proved itself a mecca for bass fishermen in that section of the Old Dominion.

EARLY DECEMBER SNOW HAD LITTLE EFFECT ON WILDLIFE

A cording to I. T. Quinn, Executive Director of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, the early season snow storms that blanketed the Blue Ridge and the western areas of the state, did not remain on the ground long enough to have had any detrimental effect on the wildlife population of the region.

Bird feeding was not resorted to by the Commission, since some natural food was still available to carry the population through the critical period.

Under ordinary circumstances, artificially supplying feed for quail and other game birds is not considered good management by the Commission, but with the steady disappearance of natural food and cover in the western areas of the state because of increased pasturage for stock raising, some feeding in these areas may be necessary during protracted periods of heavy snow.

FISH STOCKING PROGRAM ABOUT ENDED FOR YEAR

Fish stocking activities of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries will soon be over until next spring, according to G. W. Buller, chief of the State Commission's Fish Division.

The specially designed fish trucks are on the road at the present time carrying the last of the hatcheries' 1951 output of warm water species to the selected streams and ponds throughout the state.

Mr. Buller stated that the 1951 production of bass and bream at the warm water hatcheries was the highest ever, with an increase of approximately 20 per cent over last year's output.

New premier of Jordan rules out chance of a separate peace tresty with Israel.

FARM BUILDING PLANS LISTED IN NEW BULLETIN

A list of farm building plans now available from the Agriculture Extension Service has been published in Bulletin 187, and interested farmers can see a copy at the county agents' offices throughout the state.

Paul Stoneburner, assistant agricultural engineer, says farmers can order desired plans by number through the county agent, or direct from the farm structures division, agricultural engineering department at V. P. I., Blacksburg, Va.

The plans are distributed free to residents of Virginia.

The new bulletin lists plans for all types of barns, storage buildings, machinery sheds, and camp buildings.

Farmhouse plans are illustrated in another bulletin, which also may be seen at county agents' offices.

DAIRY HERDSMEN'S CLASSES PLANNED

Demonstrations and discussions of the various jobs involved in handling a dairy herd will be featured at a short course for dairy herdsmen at V. P. I., January 8 - 13.

Applications should be sent to the dairy husbandry department at V. P. I., Blacksburg, and will be accepted in the order received.

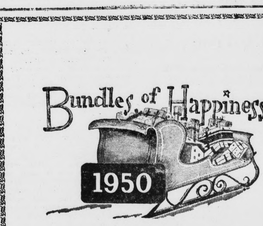
Members of the dairy husbandry staff, the college veterinarian, and others will conduct the short course.

German Reds declare Christmas is obsolete.

Peiping broadcasts rejection of UN cease-fire order.

Massed naval gunfire helping to hold off Reds in Korea.

Racial prejudice stirs up riots in Singapore.



To all in our town
May you enjoy a superbly happy Christmas.

LeGrand's Esso Service
Boots & Ned LeGrand

May Santa's packages hold peace, joy and health..

E. T. Guill's Service Station
Appomattox, Va.

To all the good people of our town and county we wish the sum of all happiness

Let us share the joy of the season without stint.

POE HARDWARE COMPANY
Appomattox, Virginia